

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 04054 191141Z

46

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 EB-03 PM-03 DODE-00 NEAE-00 CPR-01 /041 W

----- 114209

P 191050Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7781

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4054

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, BG, US

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO
THE UNITED STATES, M.R. SIDDIQI

1. WHEN I CALLED AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI THIS MORNING TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS TRAVEL IN THE LIGHT OF THE COUP, HE ASKED IF HE COULD COME TO SEE ME. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS WHICH EMERGED IN ENSUING CONVERSATION IN MY OFFICE:

2. WHO'S RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT? INDICATING BY SOME OF HIS OTHER REMARKS THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH COUP ELEMENTS, SIDDIQI SAID THE BIG QUESTION NOW WAS WHO WAS IN CHARGE, I.E., WHETHER THE MUSHTAQUE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT HAD A FREE HAND TO RUN GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OR WHETHER THE MILITARY WOULD BE USING THEM SIMPLY AS A FRONT. AND EVEN IF THE ARMY WERE IN CHARGE, HE ADDED, IT WAS NOT YET CLEAR WHO CONSTITUTED THE GROUP IN THE ARMY WHICH WOULD BE CALLING THE SHOTS. SIDDIQI SAID THAT THIS LATTER POINT WAS THE FIRST QUESTION WHICH HAD TO BE SETTLED.

3. COUP VICTIMS. HE SAID THE ONLY DEATHS IN THE COUP-- APART FROM ACCIDENTAL VICTIMS OF STRAY MORTAR SHOTS--WERE IN THE THREE MUJIB-RELATED FAMILIES: MUJIB'S SHEIKH MONI'S , AND SERNIABAT'S. MUJIB AND HIS WIFE, THREE SONS, TWO DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW, AND BROTHER SHEIKH NASSER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 04054 191141Z

HAD BEEN KILLED; SHEIKH MONI AND HIS WIFE, AND 17 OR 18

PEOPLE AT SERNIABAT'S HOUSE, BUT NOT INCLUDING SERNIABAT'S WIFE WHO HAD BEEN HURT BUT WAS ALIVE.

4. NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. WHEN I ASKED WHAT NEW DIRECTIONS WE MIGHT EXPECT FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT, SIDDIQI SAID THAT ONE COULD ONLY JUDGE THIS IN TERMS OF THE CHARACTER OF THE NEW PRESIDENT, ASSUMING THAT THE CIVILIAN CABINET WERE FREE TO RUN THE COUNTRY. HE NOTED THAT HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF MUSHTAQUE (IN FACT, MUSHTAQUE WAS ONE OF THE FEW GUESTS AT A DINNER I ATTENDED AT SIDDIQI'S ON AUGUST 9) AND SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT HE WAS BOTH PRO-WESTERN AND PRO-FREE ENTERPRISE IN HIS CONVICTIONS. HE THEREFORE THOUGHT THAT THE PROGRAMS UNDER THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION WHICH RAN COUNTER TO THESE BIASES WOULD BE REVERSED, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY NOT GO SO FAR AS TO DE-NATIONALIZE THE NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE COMPULSORY COOPERATIVES WERE DEAD AND IN GENERAL THE CLIMATE FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS WOULD IMPROVE. (SIDDIQI NOTED IN PASSING THAT NEITHER HAD MUJIB BEEN A MARXIST OR A LEFTIST BUT THAT FOR SOME CURIOUS REASON HAD PLAYED A "DOUBLE GAME.")

5. NEW FOREIGN MINISTER. SIDDIQI FELT SURE THAT KAMAL HOSSAIN WOULD RETURN TO DACCA BUT ALSO FAIRLY SURE THAT HE WOULD NOT RESUME HIS POST AS FOREIGN MINISTER. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS EVEN A GOOD CHANCE THAT MUSHAQUE WOULD WANT PERSONALLY TO HANDLE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS HE HAD RESENTED BEING OUSTED BY TAJUDDIN AN HAD ALWAYS BADGERED MUJIB TO GIVE HIM BACK HIS OLD POST AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

6. SIDDIQI'S PLANS. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET CHECKED WITH NEW GOVERNMENT, HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITH HIS PLANS TO GO TO WASHINGTON, ARRIVING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR A GALL BLADDER OPERATION IN LONDON THIS WEEK WITH A TWO-WEEK PERIOD OF RECOVERY THERE, BUT WOULD NOW HAVE TO WAIT AND HAVE THIS OPERATION IN WASHINGTON. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE NEW AUTHORITIES MIGHT WISH HIM TO STAY AND TAKE PART IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT BUT HIS PREFERENCE WAS TO GO ON TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 04054 191141Z

WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS HIS EXACT TRAVEL PLANS.
BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA04054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750286-0148
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750837/aaaabfuf.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO THE UNITED STATES, M.R. SIDDIQI
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, BG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006